
1 PURPOSE AND NEED

The Defense Communications-Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity (Defense CEETA) facility occupies 263 acres (ac) (106 hectares [ha]) in the northernmost section of US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The fenced, restricted Defense CEETA complex is bounded on the north by Telegraph Road, on the east by the Humphreys Engineer Center, on the south by Woodlawn Road (Route 618), and on the west by Beulah Street (Route 613). Fort Belvoir is located in southeastern Fairfax County, Virginia, about 18 miles (mi) (29 kilometers [km]) south of Washington, DC, along the Potomac River (Figure 1-1, Location of Fort Belvoir, and Figure 1-2, Defense CEETA).

Fort Belvoir is proposing to accommodate the construction of a new administrative/office and computer building – T Block – at the Defense CEETA complex at Fort Belvoir. (Since the establishment of the Defense CEETA complex at Fort Belvoir in 1976, its construction has proceeded in “blocks” or modules.) The building would be constructed in the existing Utility Building (UTB) Parking Lot. The additional work space provided by T Block would accommodate approximately 250 new employees. The Proposed Action also includes the construction of a new parking structure in the existing West Parking Lot.

Construction of both T Block and the parking structure would begin in October 2002, and would be completed in Spring 2004. The new employees would begin to occupy T Block in Fall 2004.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the impacts of:

- The construction of T Block.
- The construction of the parking structure.
- The associated increase in personnel.

It has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500-1508, and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, “Environmental Effects of Army Actions” at 32 CFR Part 651.

1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of constructing T Block is to provide a building and its associated facilities to house operations critical to Defense CEETA’s mission, and to provide a work place for the additional employees needed to support those operations. Defense CEETA conducts research and testing programs of a classified nature, and information on critical mission requirements cannot be

provided. Current facilities within the fenced, restricted Defense CEETA complex are inadequate for accommodation of scheduled projects.

The purpose of the parking structure is to provide parking for the vehicles of the new Defense CEETA employees, and to replace parking stalls that would be removed to accommodate construction of T Block and the new parking structure.

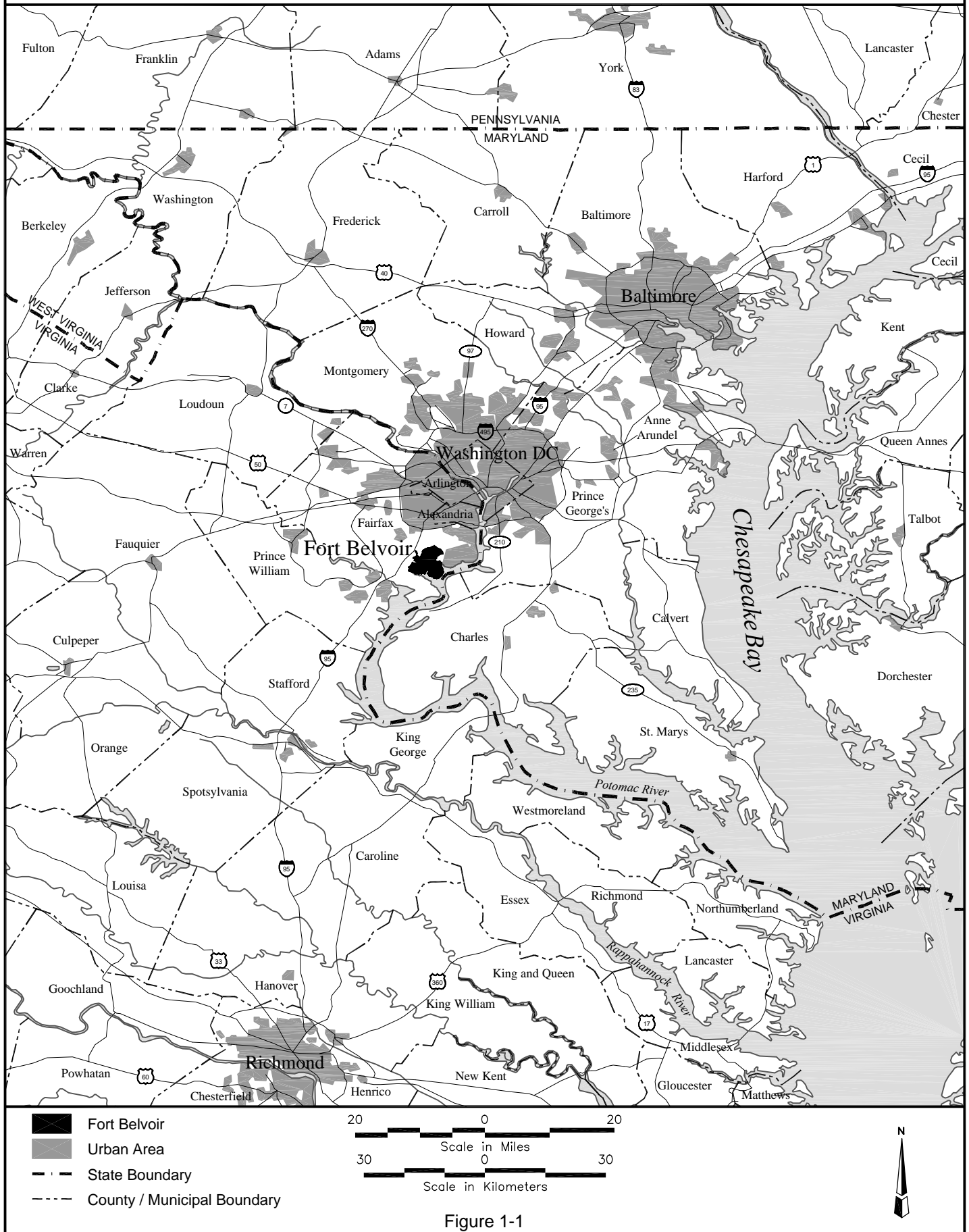
1.2 The NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for the consideration of environmental issues in federal agency planning and decision-making. Under NEPA, federal agencies must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an EA for any federal action, except those actions that are determined to be “categorically excluded.” An EIS is prepared for those federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EA is a concise public document that serves to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS. The EA should include brief discussions of the following:

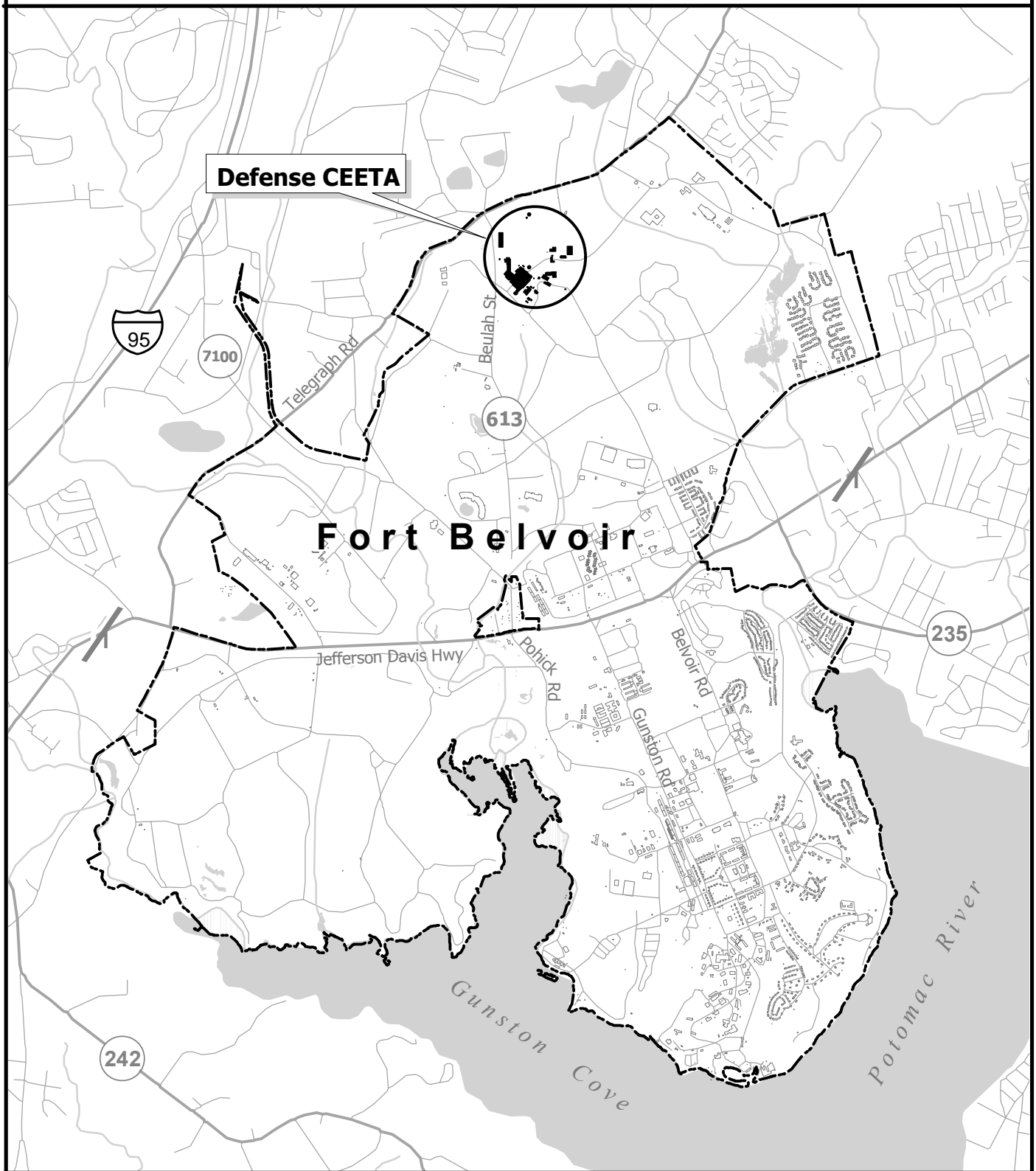
- The need for the proposal.
- The alternatives (as required under Section 102 [2] [E] of NEPA).
- The environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives.
- A listing of agencies and persons consulted.

The EA results in either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) or a decision to prepare an EIS. If the Army were to determine that the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, then an EIS would be prepared.

Location of Fort Belvoir



Defense CEETA



- Fort Belvoir Property Boundary
- Existing Defense CEETA Building

2500 0 2500 5000 Feet
500 0 500 1000 Meters



Figure 1-2